

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 12005 111325Z

46

ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AF-08 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /023 W

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R 110903Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8746

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 12005

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PDIP, GB, RP

SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: MONICO R. VICENTE, PHILIPPINE

AMBASSADOR TO GABON

REF: LIBREVILLE 1543

1. MONICO R. VICENTE WAS NAMED THE FIRST PHILIPPINE  
AMBASSADOR TO GABON JULY 10, DURING PRESIDENT BONGO'S STATE  
VISIT TO MANILA. A CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, VICENTE  
HAD BEEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION IN THE  
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. VICENTE WAS BORN MAY 4, 1922, IN MANDALUYON, RIZAL  
(JUST OUTSIDE MANILA). HE HOLD AN A.B. DEGREE FROM THE  
UNIVERSITY OF MANILA AND A LAW DEGREE FROM THE MANUEL  
QUEZON SCHOOL OF LAW. BEFORE THE OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR II,  
VICENTE WAS A CLASSROOM TEACHER. DURING THE JAPANESE  
OCCUPATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, HE WAS SENT TO THE JAPANESE  
IMPERIAL MILITARY ACADEMY. WHEN ALLIED FORCES LANDED IN  
1945, HE WORKED FOR THE U.S. ARMY AS AN INTERPRETER. HE  
THEN WORKED BRIEFLY FOR THE BUDGET COMMISSION BEFORE JOINING  
THE FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1948. DURING THE 1950'S  
VICENTE HAD ASSIGNMENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS AS A LIBRARIAN, RESEARCHER, ATTORNEY, AND SENIOR  
ASSISTANT. IN 1956, HE WAS SENT TO EUROPE TO STUDY AT  
THE SORBONNE AND THE ACADEMY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AT  
THE HAGUE. IN 1965 HE WAS NAMED CONSUL GENERAL TO KOBE,  
JAPAN, WHERE HE SERVED FOR SEVERAL YEARS. HE THEN HAD  
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PAGE 02 MANILA 12005 111325Z

A EUROPEAN ASSIGNMENT (EXACT LOCATION NOT KNOWN BY US),

BEFORE BEING REASSIGNED TO THE HOME OFFICE. FOR AT  
LEAST THE LAST TWO YEARS, VICENTE SERVED CONCURRENTLY  
AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION AND CHAIRMAN  
OF THE BOARD OF FOREIGN SERVICE EXAMINERS.

3. VICENTE IS INTELLIGENT, GREGARIOUS, AND EASY GOING.  
HE GETS ALONG WELL WITH AMERICANS. NO HARD CHARGER,  
HE DISPLAYS A KEEN INTEREST IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES  
SUCH AS GOLF AND NIGHTCLUBBING. BOTH HE AND HIS WIFE  
SPEAK FRENCH FLUENTLY; VICENTE WAS SERVING AS  
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE FRENCH ASSOCIATION AT THE  
TIME OF HIS AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENT. HE ALSO SPEAKS  
TAGALOG, JAPANESE AND ENGLISH.  
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## Message Attributes

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